



# Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 25

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1975

NUMBER 7

*Give through your local church*



- Help malnourished children, mothers, and the elderly to obtain nutritious food.
- Assist people on welfare to better their lives now—and in the future.
- Enable elderly people to secure the rights and dignity of senior citizens.

Neighbors in Need... UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The annual Neighbors in Need all-church offering, which is suggested this year for October 5, is your opportunity to help people in the U. S. A. who are less fortunate than yourself.

## 17/76

How is the 17/76 Campaign coming along? Well, there is good news and bad news. The good news first. After receiving \$1,075 during the last four months of 1974, we have seen giving increase so far this year. For the first quarter of 1975, we received \$920. In the second quarter, gifts came in totalling \$5,467.50. So far, this quarter, (1 month and 1 week) we have received \$1,957, bringing our grand total to \$9,419.50. 12 churches have contributed to the campaign.

Now for the bad news. The peak month for receipts was May, when \$2,755.50 came in. June giving was less than half of that figure, and July's, almost \$200 less than June. Then, 12 of the 24 churches which have set 17/76 goals have not yet begun to pay on those goals. Our hope of attaining these goals is dependent on an all-out effort.

This can be done more easily if each church would send its gift in monthly to the Southeast Conference Office, P. O. Box 29883, Atlanta, Ga. 30329. The Conference will then send the monthly receipts to the national office.

## General Synod Acts On Women, Local Church, And Hunger

For five full days from their seats in the Minneapolis Auditorium, delegates to the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ were confronted by a huge red and blue banner with the words "Jesus Christ Frees and Unites," and the symbol of the United Church of Christ.

"That text and that symbol have been burned into our hearts and minds," said United Church President Robert V. Moss, as the Synod closed.

"I believe we were united in Christ as no General Synod has ever been before. We were free of the separate personalities of our parent Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed traditions, and were unhampered by our racial, ethnic and sexual differences."

After 18 years of turbulent, exciting life, the United Church of Christ has crossed the threshold of maturity," Dr. Moss declared.

The General Synod approved, with one negative vote, a program to raise the status of women in the UCC. Key element in the plan is designation of a national affirmative action officer for fair employment opportunities for women and minorities. State and regional conferences, local churches and theological seminaries that train ministers for the denomination will all have roles to play in the new program.

The UCC presented the Antoinette Brown awards, commemorating the first woman minister ordained in the United States, to the Rev. Rhoda Jane Dickinson, 87, of Minneapolis, and the Rev. Joan Bates Forsberg, 47, of Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Conn.

The 750 delegates from 49 states adopted a wide ranging program to attack the world food crisis. They called on "comfortable" Americans to make radical changes in their style of life to help prevent starvation in hungry areas of the world. Some specifics: cut down on lawn fertilizer, ride a bike, plant a garden, eat a modest and healthful diet.

They also called on the country to increase emergency food aid, step up farm production at home and abroad, encourage



New moderator of the U. C. C., Rev. Robert K. Nace, of Greenville, Pa., was installed by his predecessor, Margaret A. Haywood.

family planning and liberalize international trade policies.

UCC members from the Great Plains area who joined the delegates at a mass worship service Sunday, June 30, contributed more than \$7,000 to a special hunger fund.

Actions to foster the unity and well being of the local churches were given high priority by the Synod delegates. In a vote ranking 29 subjects considered by the Synod, the delegates placed as the first six: women in church and society, local church vitality, the world food crisis, evangelism, Christian education and stewardship.

National boards and agencies were instructed to come up with creative new programs to develop the mission of the local church, train its leaders, increase its strength and enhance the quality of

[Continued on Page 6]

## Ministers Meetings

Saturday, Sept. 6, 11:00 AM — First Congregational Church, Savannah, Ga.

Sunday, Sept. 7, 4:00 PM — Macedonia Church, Braselton, Ga.

Monday, Sept. 8, 11:00 AM — First Congregational Church, Atlanta, Ga.

Monday, Sept. 8, 7:30 PM — Lanett Congregational Christian Ch., Lanett, Ala.

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 11:00 AM — St. John's E & R Church, Cullman, Ala.

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 11:00 AM — Community Church, Pleasant Hill, Tenn.

Friday, Sept. 12 — South Alabama

Saturday, Sept. 13 — Central Alabama

Rev. Robert E. Koenig of the Board for Homeland Ministries, Division of Evangelism, Church Extension and Education, will be our guest leader.

## Association Meetings

Ala.-Tenn. — Saturday, Sept. 27, 9:30 AM, Howard Church, Nashville, Tenn.

North Ala. — Saturday, October 4, 9:30 AM, Old Liberty Church, Town Creek, Ala.

East Alabama — Saturday, Oct. 11, 9:30 AM, Hillside Church, LaGrange, Ga.

S. Ala. - N. W. Fla. — Saturday, Oct. 18, 9:30 AM, Antioch Church, Andalusia, Ala.  
Central Ala. — Sunday, Oct. 19, 2 PM, Mt. Olive Church, Tallassee, Ala.

Georgia - S. C. — Saturday, Oct. 25, 10:00 AM and Sunday, Oct. 26, 9:00 AM, Bethany Church, Thomasville, Ga.

## Other Events

Sept. 15 & 16 — Southern Region, Consultation on Hunger, Central Church, Atlanta.

Sept. 16 & 17 — Southern Region, Council on Mission Priorities, Central Ch., Atlanta.

Sept. 19 — Morgan-Scott Project Advisory Committee, 1st United Meth. Ch., Oak Ridge, Tn., 10:30 AM; Uplands, Inc., Board of Directors, Pleasant Hill, Tn., 5:00 PM.

Sept. 20 — Local Church Consultants — training session on Evangelism at Bonanza United Church of Christ, 10 AM.  
— 4 PM — Move to Camp Calvin.

Sept. 28 — East Ala. Women's Fellowship Rally, Langdale Church, 2:30 PM.

Sept. 28 — 6:30 PM, Southeast Conference Board of Directors, Pl. Hill, Tn., (concludes Sept. 29)

Oct. 5 — Neighbors in Need Offering  
World-Wide Communion

7:30 PM — Atlanta Generating Community, COCU, First Christian Ch., Decatur, Ga.

Oct. 13 & 14 — Georgia Interchurch Association, St. Joseph's Catholic Ch., Macon

## Summer Programs In Morgan-Scott Project, Tenn.

Robbins Community had string art for children, softball for boys and girls, roller skating, and a movie.

Lancing — a revision of program had to be made because of the large number of youngsters who came. Plans included a trip to Opryland for the older ones, Knoxville Zoo, swimming lessons, arts and crafts, 4th of July activities, movies, setting up a booth at baseball games, and a women's softball team.

Deer Lodge — had 52 kids from 11 to 3 for arts and crafts. Fun day with sports and games, and free lunches continued throughout the summer. Other activities were: newspaper writing, making a float for July 4th Parade, summer theatre, swimming lessons, a trip to Opryland, a movie, field trips, camping, canoeing and hikes.

## Home School To Open Sept. 2

The two-year dream of an alternative education system for Morgan County will become a reality Sept. 2, 1975. The first year of operation of the school portion will be located in classrooms in Burrville School. The second major objective of the Home-School program is to establish a residence with house parents which will provide emergency foster care to keep homeless children in the county near remaining family or guardians. This facility is scheduled to open around Nov. 1.

## Minister Of Robbins Parish Leaves

Rev. and Mrs. Larry Balleine left for their new home in Michigan. Larry served a one-year internship in Church Development as pastor of Robbins, Glenmary, and Deer Lodge Churches. He and Pansy Griffith met during his year in the parish and were married May 18.



An auction held at Deer Lodge school in May raised over \$600 for Missions and the Craft Co-op. The sale of donated items served a twofold purpose. People were able to buy needed items at low cost and, at the same time, add substantially to mission resources.

Another hope for funding is the reconditioning of stoves and refrigerators for sale (inexpensively) to families who have none. The reconditioning of bikes has been going on for sometime. Many young people use these for transportation to church, recreation programs, etc.

## NEWS—

## Here and There

MINISTERS of Southeast Conference will be meeting in Program Areas in September. Rev. Robert Koenig of the Division of Christian Education in New York will be our guest leader, bringing ministers up-to-date on four approaches to Curriculum for Church Schools. Lay leaders are welcome to these meetings.

Allen B. Hollis Jr. begins his ministry at United Church of Huntsville, September 1, after resigning at First Evangelical and Reformed Church, Nashville, June, 1975.

Rev. Don Flick resigned as pastor of Church of the Savior, Knoxville, Tenn., June, 1975, to become Director of Development of Homewood, four Homes for the Aged in the Hagerstown, Md. Area, Sept. 1, 1975.

Dr. and Mrs. David Shepherd, now retired and living in North Carolina, served as interim at the Huntsville Church.

Rev. and Mrs. James Smith moved in the parsonage at Jones Chapel, Woodbury, Ga., serving the Church and attending LaGrange College. They have resigned to enter Gordon-Conwell Seminary, Boston, Mass., this fall.

Dr. Wilson Q. Welch, Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Fisk University and pastor of Howard Church, Nashville, is also Moderator of the Ala.-Tenn. Association. In this capacity, he has been visiting pastors and churches in the Association this summer.

First Congregational Church [UCC], Macon, Ga., recently sold some downtown property. The Church hopes to become more active now.

Uplands, Inc., at Pleasant Hill, Tenn., has had several groups of young people from Ohio and Alabama as a work camp. They improved walk areas, washed windows, cleaned trash along the lake, weeded flower plots, and cut high weeds on streets and roads. The residents enjoyed having the young people, especially the Clown Show.

The Social Action Committee of Pleasant Hill Community Church obtained approximately 30 signatures on a petition protesting the building of B-1 Bombers by the U. S. Individual letters were sent to Tennessee Senators.

Lanett Church increased the benevolence item in their budget for OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION to \$5,000. Total budget for 1975-76 is \$30,680.36.

Noon Day C.C. Church, Wedowee, Ala., is erecting a new building for \$50,000 (approx.), plus free labor of members and friends. With Bernard Fuller, pastor, the church gathered in their new Fellowship Hall for their first meal together July 30.

## Rel. Insts. Should Use Bicentennial

As Vice Chairman of the Bicentennial Committee for Jefferson County (Ala.), Henry W. Tuttle thinks that religious institutions and their leaders should take advantage of the American Bicentennial to reassess what is unique about their contribution to the American dream. The churches must discover how they fit into the American dream and its realization.

"Too many Christians have put popular success before God's demands. To love God means to have no other Gods before him. Too many American churchgoers do not understand that God made this commandment because man could not be well if he served other gods. People must put righteousness, justice and freedom ahead of personal success," he said.

## Lois C. Leech

Miss Lois Catherine Leech died on June 19, 1975, at Habersham Home, less than a week after her 93rd birthday. The funeral was held on June 22 at the Federated Church, Demorest, Ga.

Miss Leech was born in Dakota Territory in 1882, ten years after the Battle of Little Big Horn. She was educated in South Dakota, where she attended the Presbyterian College in Huron. After her graduation, she taught at a high school for Indian girls at Guntree, Nebraska, until 1919.

From 1920 until 1949 she was at Thorsby Institute, Thorsby, Alabama, where she was dietician, taught home economics, and was superintendent of the girls' dormitory. In 1949 she and her sisters moved to Demorest where they purchased the house that Dr. Robert Lamb, Sr., had kept as a boarding house in the 1890's.

Miss Leech and her sisters were active in the Federated Church from the time they moved to Demorest. Miss Leech was Secretary of the Ladies' Guild, Clerk of the Congregational Church, and frequently a delegate to meetings of the United Church of Christ.

## Katagiri To California

The Rev. Mineo Katagiri will take up his duties as Northern California Conference Minister in September, 1975.

Mr. Katagiri was appointed Assistant to the President of the United Church of Christ in 1970 by President Robert V. Moss, with a special assignment to work with the Council on Mission priorities. A native of Honolulu, Hawaii, Mr. Katagiri has been in Southeast Conference frequently.

## NEW CONFERENCE LEADERS



Pictured above (L to R) are the new Moderator of Southeast Conference: Mr. Franklin Thomas; and the new Vice Moderator, Rev. David L. Beebe.

## E. Tallassee Finds New Resources

East Tallassee United Congregational Church invited the Faith Exploration group July 14, 1974. Consultants were: J. K. Murphy, Ed Lauderdale, Marvin Brand, and Bubber Dollar. The next meeting was October 20, 1974. In the first two meetings, we began to see some of the needs of our church. The experience of exploring the Christian faith together was a new and exciting time.

Feb. 16, we began to look at things we wanted for our church, setting down a list with a time limit: painting the Christian Ed. dept., a church Library, more land for the Church, and a recreation center for youth.

July 16, 1975, Mr. Murphy met with the Church, when all goals were reviewed. All projects had been completed, including a new roof on the Educational Dept., and sending youth to Church Camp. Contact had been made to secure land for the recreational center, the church study was paneled, floor covering for Educ. Dept., and air conditioning for Nursery.

People realized that as a body, we should be more evangelistic in our efforts to reach other people. The Church is the body of Christ, the instrument by which His love is channeled to the lost and unchurched, aged, sick, and homeless in the community. In the Bible study, we saw more clearly that the church is a group of chosen people, a Royal Priesthood, God's very own, Holy and pure, consecrated to Him. Then, if all these things be true, we should function like children of God.

We feel that through this experience we have renewed our faithfulness with others and, in seeking to fulfill our goals in the church, many other things have happened to our church. We not only completed goals that were set, but added to our church membership. This came partly when we found out who we are, what we believe, and where we are going.

— James T. McAdams, Pastor

## New Office Personnel For SEC



Mrs. Edward M. Brown, Secretary, SE Conference office, began June 1, 1975.

On June 1, 1975, Mrs. Freda Brown became part-time Secretary in the Southeast Conference Office. Freda is mother of three children, wife of Ed Brown, and member of Central Church, Atlanta.



James K. Rowland, Adm. Secy. SE Conference office, began June 1, 1975.

Also, as of June 1, 1975, James K. Rowland, a native of Florida, with a wife and two sons, became Administrative Secretary in the Southeast Conference Office. Jim is a former banker (with 16 years experience), has been pastor of Methodist churches in Florida and Georgia, and is now a second year Ministerial Student at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. J. R. Wilson Jr., member of 1st Congregational Church, Atlanta, is the new Treasurer, working closely with Mr. Rowland.

Mrs. Carey Andes still carries responsibilities for the Year Book and SOUTHEAST NEWS.



## BUYING A BIBLE?

Are you thinking about buying a Bible, but you aren't sure which version to buy?

First of all, keep in mind the difference between a "translation" and a "paraphrase." While no translation can be completely exact, "to translate" means to attempt to reproduce the verbal meaning. "To paraphrase" means to say the same sort of thing in your own words. Of the four popular paraphrases (Phillips, Williams, "The Cotton-Patch Version," "The Living Bible"), Phillips is probably the best and the least subject to particular doctrinal blinders.

Of the translations, I prefer the New English Bible (our pulpit Bible) because it combines good literature with readability. But, it is English rather than American. The "Today's English Version" ("Good News for Modern Man") is presently complete only in the New Testament and lacks a lot as literature — but it is understandable "American English". A good balance is "The Jerusalem Bible", among Catholic translations head and shoulders above the "New American Bible." I still like Goodspeed's "American Translation."

Of the modifications of the King James, the Revised Standard Version is most widely used, but the American Standard Version is a more accurate translation, one of the best for careful study.

Although it is available now only in portions (and, of course, only in the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible), I boldly assert that the best Bible translation in English is the one coming out from the Jewish Publication Society.

Which translation? It depends on what you are looking for: tradition, literature, or readability. The "textbook" of our religion ought to speak clearly in our own language.

—David Beebe, Minister of  
Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga

## Campaign Moves Forward At Piedmont

Piedmont College has been the recipient of twelve Annuity Gifts from one alumni couple to express their gratitude to God and to Piedmont College.

An Anonymous Friend requests only a statement on the part of each donor that Piedmont College will receive a gift before the end of 1976, or that Piedmont College is in the Will of the donor for a specific percentage, or a definite amount.

Having now gone beyond the \$1,000,000 mark in recorded gifts and legacies, the College has qualified for the first \$500,000 of the \$750,000 Challenge Grant.



Ministers Convocation  
Camp Sumatanga

L. to R.: Mrs. Graham Norris, Mt. Ck. Union; Mrs. Sybil Faust, Brookmeade, Mrs. Peggy Hall, Pleasant Hill.

## Brookmeade Suffers Losses

While Rev. and Mrs. Stephen Gray were on vacation, the Brookmeade Church, Nashville, suffered some trying times.

The homes of the Burtons and of the Bells had fires which caused extensive damage. Two members of the Bell family were hospitalized, one child critical. The Church has established a "Bell Assistance Fund" for this family.

On July 18, Mrs. Sybil Faust, organist of the Church, died. "Sybil" was constantly involved in all of Brookmeade's activities, sharing her spirit, leadership and friendship. Her gift of music as well as her enthusiasm for life shall be missed. She was one of those people who, though she suffered much, rejoiced to help others. The ministers at their Convocation in May will remember her as she led us through the new United Church of Christ Hymnal. A Memorial service for Sybil was held at the Church on the evening of July 29.

## Andrew C. Nelson

Rev. Andrew Calvin Nelson, retired minister of the East Alabama Association, died June 20, 1975, at the age of 82. The funeral service was held in the Congregational Christian Church, Lanett, Ala., with Rev. Joe French and Rev. Harold Auler Jr. officiating. Burial was in the cemetery at Seman Community Church, which he organized.

Mr. Nelson is survived by his wife, Hazel, two daughters, two sons, 9 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Mr. Nelson, veteran of many years in the ministry, had been ordained in 1930 and served the following churches:

Clanton (Ala.), Eastview, Mt. Springs, Mountain Creek, Union; Eclectic, Union; Antioch near Headland; Clio; Andalusia, Antioch (twice), Huguley C. C., Roanoke, Antioch, and Rock Stand; Todd, Bethel, Oak Grove Woodbury, Jones Chapel; Crest, Hebron; Stateline, and others.

## J. C. DOLLAR

## ORDAINED AT ELON

It was a great moment in the life of J. C. Dollar, his family and all who were present at his ordination service Sunday, July 20, at Elon College Community Church, Elon College, N. C. His uncle Melvin Dollar preached the ordination sermon, "Think on These Things." Seven ministers were there to lay hands on JC for Ordination. The Church Choir presented special music, the Deacons served as greeters, and the Committee on Arrangements was composed of wives of all clergy members of the Church.

The altar flowers were given by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Still and Mr. and Mrs. C. Calvin Dollar, parents of J.C. and Carol.

A covered-dish luncheon in honor of J.C. and Carol was sponsored by the Women's Fellowship of the Elon College Church and the Elon Home for Children, held in MacFarland Building of the Home.

J.C. is currently serving as Supervisor of Campus Life at the Elon Home for Children.

Following the meal, J.C. was presented several gifts, including one from his home church, Lanett C. C., in Lanett, Ala, a set of Barclay's Notes on the New Testament, presented by Rev. Harold Auler Jr., pastor of Lanett Church.

## The Farewell Note From The Pastor

(Written to the congregation of First E. & R. Church, Nashville, Tenn.)

Dear Friends,

All human relationships are subject to change. One of the more difficult ones I must face from time to time is the change of Pastorates. It is very painful to leave people whom you have learned to love.

I would be an ingrate not to express my deep gratitude to all of you for your kindness to us during these three years. You have been faithful and supportive and God's grace had brought us through much together. Surely we can trust His Love and grace for the future.

God will also judge our ministry together here. I see many things I wish I had done better, but I am satisfied that I preached the truth as I understood it with fervency of spirit. I gave my pastoral service with love and compassion. The joyous reward of the intimate trust you gave me far exceeds the material rewards of any kind.

God through His infinite wisdom has chosen to send me by providential direction to serve His United Church in Huntsville, Alabama. I hope you will have reason to visit that city some day and will visit the church.

Sincerely yours,  
Allen B. Hollis Jr.

## Annual Women's Retreat Held

The Alabama-N.W. Florida Women's Fellowship met in Retreat at Southern Union State Junior College, Wadley, Ala., June 14, 1975, using the theme, "What Does the Lord Require of Me?"

Mrs. Joe French, President, called the meeting to order and introduced Dr. Ray Jones, President of Southern Union.

Dorothy Smith of Oak Grove Church, brought morning worship. Special music was given by ladies from Bethel Church, West Point; Carol and Terry Backstrom and Vickie Fowler.

Florence Dollar gave a preview of new Laity Materials for 1975-76.

Group singing during the day was led by Mary Harmon and Martha Lauderdale.

Trudi Sanford, of Central Church in Atlanta, brought an inspirational and challenging message on "Environments — Our Awareness", speaking about the natural gifts on this rich earth.

"Early American Singing" and a Singing School was presented by Willie McGill, Virginia Auler, and Lois Harry, of Lanett Church. The idea came from the Resource Material, "Early Church Music."

Ladies from Birmingham churches presented a three-act skit concerned with the growth of a church.

Harold and Virginia Auler told of their visit to Honduras.

The group voted to send \$150 to the Board for World Ministries to be used where most needed. The group also decided to keep old records of Women's Fellowships and Association Women's Fellowship in the Association Library, at Roanoke First Church.

Twenty churches were represented, with a total of 75 in attendance.

Officers for 1975-77 are: Pres. — Mrs. Virgil Smith — Oak Grove; V. Pres. — Mrs. Arthur Dailey — Lanett; Sec. — Miss Martha Lauderdale — Langdale; Treas. — Mrs. A. R. VanCleave — Wadley; Educ. — Mrs. Lewis Baker — Oak Grove; Stew. — Mrs. Katherine Childers — Pl. Grove; Witness — Miss Mary Sue Johnson — Lowell.

## Living Coin Of UCC Women

This is a "Valley Project," says the Newsletter of the Langdale Church. The women in the churches are asked to "pray for and put aside one dime (10c) each week for the Living coin of U.C.C. Women."

At each Fifth Sunday Night Sing, the money will be received. At the present time, this money will go to help the Hunt Memorial Church, Alexander City, Alabama, in their renovation program. Rev. Charles Bell is the pastor at Hunt Memorial.

## YOUTH MAGAZINE NEEDS SUBSCRIBERS

"Why is there less outward activism and more inward contemplation among young people today? asks the Editor of Youth Magazine, an ecumenical monthly for young people published by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

Why? Editor Herman Ahrens responds: "Because Young People have been frustrated by the world around them, including their own failures to change things fast enough. They're looking for new answers to old questions. And the questions teens are asking are basic religious questions.

"In our magazine we're not afraid to tackle the questions of faith and discuss how God is at work in the world. We try to be on top of things as they affect the young person."

Subscription rates: \$5 individual, for 1 year; \$4 per subscription for 3 or more to one address. Mail to Youth Magazine, Room 1203, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

## Talladega College Alumni Meet In Atlanta

The Talladega College Alumni paid high tribute to Arthur Douglas Gray, President of Talladega College, 1952-62, at the Alumni dinner on August 1, 1975, in Atlanta, Ga. Currently the Minister of the Congregational Church of Park Manor United Church of Christ, Chicago, Ill., Dr. Gray is a member of the Board of Trustees of Talladega College; United Church of Christ Ministers for Racial and Social Justice; United Black Churchmen of the United Church of Christ; and President of the Community Renewal Society.

Dr. Reuben Sheares, United Church of Christ Executive Director, Office for Church Life and Leadership, spoke of Dr. Gray's internationality, competency, and style when President of Talladega and as a minister in the United Church of Christ.

The Alumni Association also honored the late Dr. Theodore K. Lawless, internationally famous dermatologist from Chicago, who had served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Talladega.

Franklin W. Thomas, graduate of Talladega in the Class of 1946, is the President of the National Alumni Association. Dr. Herman H. Long, Class of 1935, is President of Talladega College.



Village School in Angola

## CHANGING WORK IN ANGOLA

Changes are coming quickly for the people of Angola since the coup in Portugal which occurred April 25, 1974. Full independence for the former colony is scheduled for Nov. 11, 1975. What this may mean for people living in Central Angola, where our denomination and its predecessors have worked since 1880, is yet to be seen. The Protestant Church Council of Central Angola which coordinates Christian work in eight areas has 85,000 communicant members and 350,000 adherents (practically all Umbundu-speaking). There are now 64 active ordained pastors and 1,653 catechists serving ten church conferences. Mission work of the United Church Board for World Ministries in Angola is closely coordinated with that of the United Church of Canada.

The United Church Board for World Ministries has budgeted \$86,278 this year for work in Angola. This budget includes the salaries of two missionaries Ms. Alice Moreira, a public health nurse, and Rev. Joyce B. Myers, a seminary professor, both located at Dondi.

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Second-Class Postage Paid at  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Published monthly October and November; February to July, inclusive; bi-monthly August-September and December-January, by and for the churches of the

### SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

The United Church of Christ  
2684 Clairmont Rd., Atlanta, Ga. 30329  
Telephone (404) 633-5655

Subscription Rate — \$1.00 Per Year

Printed by The Roanoke Leader  
Roanoke, Alabama

Vol. 25 Aug.-Sept. 1975 No. 7

POSTMASTER: Send Form 3579 to  
P. O. Box 29833, Atlanta, Ga. 30329

## GENERAL SYNOD . . .

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worship. New strategies and new materials are to be developed to reinvigorate Christian education in the churches.

The Synod challenged the 1.8 million UCC members to increase their total giving to the church by \$30 million dollars in 1979. A gift of \$1 per week for every \$1,000 of annual income is the goal unanimously endorsed by the Synod. The delegates voted for establishment of a new Office for Church in Society as a successor to the Council for Christian Social Action. Discussion and debate made it clear that they saw their action as a strong affirmation of the denomination's commitment to social action.

In other action, the Synod initiated a campaign to put the U. S. military justice system under civilian control. Basing its decision on a massive four-year study of the system by the UCC Task Force on Ministries to Military Personnel, the Synod petitioned the Congress to reform the antique system to "fulfill the highest principles of the civilian constitutional law tradition."

The United Church body also reaffirmed the military chaplaincy as the principal form of ministry to men and women in the services.

Civil liberties for gay and bisexual persons were endorsed by the delegates in a pronouncement which made clear that the Synod was not considering "the rightness or wrongness of the same-gender relationships" but was expressing its Christian conviction that all persons are entitled to equal protection under the law. A study of human sexuality and its theological foundations is to be made for presentation to the Eleventh General Synod.

The General Synod also:

- \*reaffirmed its support for political independence of Black Africans in nations still ruled by white minorities;

- \*appealed once more to the President of the United States for general amnesty for draft resisters, military absentees and civilian war protestors;

- \*affirmed support for the Wilmington Ten-nine young Black men and a white woman who are free on bail provided by the UCC while their convictions on charges arising out of racial violence in Wilmington, N. C. in 1971, are being appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court;

- \*condemned surveillance of U. S. citizens at home and assassination attempts overseas by the Central

Intelligence Agency;

- \*urged UCC members to sponsor at least 500 Vietnamese refugee families and asked the U. S. government to end restrictions on travel and trade with the new governments in Indochina;

- \*opposed the use of corporate funds by companies doing business overseas to interfere in the political process or buy favors in host nations, and urged such companies to undertake "to improve the welfare and to enlarge the dignity of the people in the countries where they operate."

- \*called on President Ford and the Governor of South Dakota to curb the use of force in the Pine Ridge Reservation incident and voted to work for observance of Indian treaty rights and repeal of laws abridging Indian sovereignty on reservation lands.

The emphasis of the Synod on the vitality of the local church was symbolized by election to the post of Moderator for 1975-77, the Rev. Robert K. Nace, pastor of Zion's Reformed Church, Greenville, Pennsylvania. Elected moderators were Dr. Erna Ballantine Bryant, Boston, Ma., and Gary E. Mistlin, Modesto, Ca., a graduate student of business administration.

The Rev. Dr. Joseph H. Evans was elected to a third term as secretary of the church. Elected to chair the Executive Council was Dr. Helen I. Barnhill, who heads a management consulting firm in Milwaukee. Vice chairperson will be Robert L. Dressler, an attorney of Portland, Oregon.

The Synod adopted annual budgets of \$9,500,000 for support of national agencies in 1976 and 1977. The amount is the same as that approved for the years 1974 and 1975.

Delegates from the Southeast Conference to the General Synod were: Wallace Boothby, David Chandler, and Warren Blankenhorn.



JOHN D. ORDWAY

## John Ordway Heads Pension Boards

John Ordway, who has served as Administrative Vice President of the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ since March 1974, succeeds William Kincaid Newman as Executive Vice President on September 1, when Mr. Newman retires after 16 years in the post.

Mr. Ordway will be responsible for the Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers, the Board of Pensions and Relief of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, Retirement Fund for Lay Workers, and the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance.

Mr. Ordway's office is also responsible for administration of insurance programs for ministers and lay workers and for emergency assistance to active and retired ministers and their families.

## RERSMA OFFERS "TENT EVENT" FOR REL. Ed. PERSONS

The Religious Education Resourcing Service for Metro Atlanta announces its first TENT EVENT, October 24-26, 1975. A resource review for religious education, the Event will include printed materials, denominational curriculum, films, cassettes and other audio-visual aids, as well as workshops and resource persons. All persons involved in local church, school or other areas of religious education and ministry are invited to participate.

The three-day Event will be held at the Student Center at Georgia Tech, and there will be a minimal charge of \$2 per person.

Interested persons may contact:

Diane Calhoun or Bonnie Ogie  
RERSMA  
615 Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite 501  
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Phone: (404) 876-4681: Tues., Wed., and Thurs. mornings.